

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /004 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

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USINFO FOR IOP/M

EO 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION TO PRESIDENT FORD TRIP

1. LISBON'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILIES, DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (D/N) AND SECULO HEADLINE GOP PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES' PARTICIPATION AT CSCE SUMMIT. COSTA GOMES CALLED CONFERENCE "MOST IMPORTANT EUROPEAN MEETING IN LAST 160 YEARS." RECURRING THEME IN LOCAL PRESS IS THE IMPORTANT ROLE PORTUGAL IS PLAYING AS MEDIATOR FOR SUPERPOWERS ON DISCUSSIONS ON DETENTE.

2. D/N'S COVERAGE OF CONFERENCE'S FINAL DAY IS EXTENSIVE BUT WITH LITTLE SPECIFIC MENTION OF U.S. POSITION OR DIGNITARIES. D/N DOES STATE THAT WESTERN SOURCES CLAIM THAT SIGNIFICANCE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S ADDRESS IS THAT SOVIET UNION MUST NOW PROVE ITS GOOD INTENTIONS. D/N CALLED ATTENTION TO SECSTATE KISSINGER'S COMPLIMENTING PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES WHEN LATTER FINISHED HIS SPEECH. PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY (ANI), IN D/N ITEM, CALLS CONFERENCE "AN IMPORTANT VICTORY FOR BRESHNEV WHO FOUGHT FOR IT FOR 20 YEARS."

3. SECULO'S REPORTAGE IS EQUALLY LENGTHY, AGAIN WITH LION'S SHARE OF SPACE DEVOTED TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES. IN LEAD ITEM, FRONT-PAGE, SECULO SAYS THAT PRESIDENT FORD PROMISED "THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD SHOW FLEXIBILITY IN THE SEARCH FOR WAYS TO TERMINATE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN EUROPE." ALSO FRONT-PAGED IS FORD STATEMENT "PEACE IS NOT A PIECE OF PAPER" AND HIS REFERENCE TO HOPE THAT WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES "WILL ADHERE TO THE UNCLASSIFIED

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SPIRIT AND THE WORDING OF THE HELSINKI DOCUMENT."

4. SECULO STATES THAT AT HELSINKI COSTA GOMES AND MARSHAL
TITO EXCHANGED STATE VISIT INVITATIONS AND THAT COSTA GOMES
WILL VISIT YUGOSLAVIA IN OCTOBER. NO DATE WAS SET FOR TITO'S
VISIT TO PORTUGAL.
JORDAN

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